

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /100 W
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R 201947Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4538
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: PRESS GRIM ON PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY: FONMIN KAMEL REPORTS TO SADAT, STRESSING STERILITY OF
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ISRAELI APPROACH. WEIZMAN VISIT ABORTED. VANCE ARRIVAL COVERED
LIGHTLY WITH CLEAR CALLS FOR U.S. TO RESOLVE CRISIS (SEPTTEL).
PRESS SUGGESTS LAST CHANCE FOR PEACE AT HAND, ALTHOUGH SOME COM-
MENTARY POSITS NEITHER WORLD NOR PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WILL ALLOW
OPPORTUNITY TO PASS. END SUMMARY.

1. KAMEL REPORTS. SADAT RECEIVED DETAILED REPORT JANUARY 19

FROM FONMIN KAMEL. ACCORDING "OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN SOURCE", DELEGATION CONCLUDED FOLLOWING: (A) ISRAELI STAND "FROZEN AND DISCOURAGING. IT STARTS BELOW ZERO" ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, NATURE OF PEACE, PEACE GUARANTEES AND SETTLEMENTS; (B) ISRAELI STAND ACCOMPANIED BY PROPAGANDA DRIVE, NOTABLY BEGIN DINNER PARTY STATEMENT, DAYAN REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE AND BEGIN COMMENTS TO EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS; (C) ISRAELI POSITION "IRRATIONAL; BASED ON TAKING EVERYTHING AND OFFERING NOTHING"; (D) IT BECAME CLEAR THAT AMERICAN EFFORTS WERE UNABLE AFFECT ISRAELI STAND. EGYPT THEREFORE REFUSED COMMIT ITSELF TO ANY U.S. FORMULA ON DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES; (D) PLANS AND PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM ISRAELI SIDE "SHOW CLEARLY THAT ISRAEL DELIBERATELY ADOPTED STAND WHICH WOULD NOT ALLOW CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS."

2. MILITARY COMMITTEE. AKHBAR REPORTED EGYPT HAD NOT REQUESTED MILITARY COMMITTEE RECONVENE AND, ON CONTRARY, HAD CANCELLED MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21. DECISION REVERSED FOLLOWING APPEAL BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO SADAT. IN MEANTIME, PAPERS REPORTED, WEIZMAN TRIP OFF UNTIL ISRAELI CABINET MEETS.

3. ALL PAPERS REPORTED REQUEST BY OPPOSITION SOCIALIST LIBERAL PARTY FOR SUSPENSION OF MILITARY COMMITTEE "UNTIL ATTITUDE OF ISRAELI PEOPLE TOWARDS ITS LEADERSHIP HAS BECOME CLEAR." PARTY FULLY SUPPORTED SADAT DECISION RECALL DELEGATION.

4. SADAT ADDRESS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. SADAT SCHEDULED TO SPEAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT SPECIAL SESSION PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY JANUARY 21, AT 1830 LOCAL. PRESS BILLS SPEECH AS "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HE WILL HAVE EVER MADE." ACCORDING AKHBAR, PRESIDENT WILL DEFINE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE ON FUTURE AND "COMPLETELY REVIEW ALL SECRETS OF PRESENT SITUATION."

5. COMMENTARY. PRESS RIDDLED WITH ACIDULOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF ISRAELI INTENTIONS. THRUST OF COMMENTARY IS THAT ISRAELI LEADERSHIP INSINCERE, EXPANSIONIST AND INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING WHAT SADAT HAS DONE. AHAM EDITORIAL, "COUNTERFEIT PEACE", DECRIED "ISRAELI PROPAGANDA, FALSEHOODS AND COUNTERFEIT FACTS." MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS IN CAIRO AND ISMAILIA SUMMIT HAD SHOWN ISRAELI CONCEPT NOT ONE OF JUST PEACE. "BEGIN WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND TRIED TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS A STATESMAN EAGER TO BRING PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE, BUT HE FAILED TO RID HIMSELF OF HIS TRUE NATURE AND THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP SHOWED ITS REAL FACE TO ITS OWN PEOPLE AND TO THE WORLD."

6. GUMHURIYYA WROTE "IT CLEAR ISRAEL . . . WANTS TO IMPOSE A HEBREW PEACE, SO TO SPEAK, ON ARAB REGION . . . TO TRANSFORM ARAB HOMELAND INTO LEBENSRAUM FOR ISRAEL . . . IT CRYSTAL CLEAR ISRAEL PRIZES EXPANSION AND LAND MORE THAN PEACE."

7. AHRAH EDITOR HAMDI GAMAL FOUND ROOTS OF CRISIS IN ISRAELI LEADERSHIP INABILITY OVERCOME ITS "PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLEXES" OF FEAR AND SUSPICION, ARROGANCE, AND MISINTERPRETATION OF HISTORY. BEGIN INSISTANCE ON RETAINING SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI "REFLECTS SENSE OF FEAR DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN MINDS OF ISRAELI LEADERSHIP. GAMAL SAID BEGIN CONTRADICTING HIMSELF. HE SAYS ARABS WANT TO THROW ISRAEL INTO SEA, BUT WHEN ARABS SAY THEY WILL RECOGNIZE HIS COUNTRY, HE STATES THIS RECOGNITION IS NOT REQUIRED. "THIS IS NOTHING BUT SHEER ARROGANCE."

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8. PESSIMISM, HOWEVER, NOT TOTAL. HAMDI GAMAL CONCLUDED THAT PEACE

POSSIBLE BECAUSE "PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ANXIOUS FOR PEACE." BEGIN
WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE ABLE TO ABORT SADAT'S INITIATIVE. "BUT
SETTLEMENT NEEDS SOME TIME AND NOBODY EXPECTED TALKS WOULD BE A
WALKOVER. OBSTACLES ARE MANY AND SO ARE THE PROBLEMS WHICH CALL
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FOR STRONG NERVES AND MUCH PATIENCE."

9. AKHBAR, TOO, FOUND ROOM TO COMMENT IT "COULD NOT SAY THAT IT
IS END OF THE STREET AND THAT PEACE INITIATIVE HAS FAILED, FOR
WHOLE WORLD WANTS TO SEE EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE CONTINUE." EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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